

## **CANTON PARK COMMISSION**

### **BOARD MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER, 2011**

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, September 14, 2011, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Frank Morris III, Vice President; Mr. Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary; and Mr. Douglas Foltz, Assistant Director. There were also several guests.

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m.

The first item of business was the reading of the minutes of the August 10, 2011 regular meeting. A motion was made by A. Black to approve them as written. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

Taking note that there were several guests, President Black opened the meeting to any issues from the floor.

Councilmember Hawk addressed the Board with a request from the West Park Neighborhood Association. He explained that the Association had received a grant to promote art in their area. He said that a piece of art had been obtained by a noted artist which they had prepared for placement in a new location. The artist was nationally known and had taught at Kent State University. It was explained to the Board that the name of the work was "Suspend," and it was a large abstract work.

Mr. Hawk asked for the Neighborhood Association that the piece be allowed to be placed in the garden area they currently maintain in Monument Park. Some assistance is needed from the Park staff in constructing a base and for a new 18"x24" plaque to be installed.

Mr. Black stated he thought it would be a nice addition. The Director stated it would present no maintenance issues and would be a good connection to the Downtown Arts District. Mr. Morris had no objection.

Mr. Black then made a motion to approve the request. A second was provided by Mr. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Old Riverside Park Issues - The Director reported that there was nothing new with regard to this issue. Mr. Black reported that he had talked to Mr. Burns and that Mr. Burns told him that Member Zutali had contacted him a couple of times. Mr. Black said Mr. Burns told him the issue was still in Columbus, and he would double check that it was still in progress. Mr. Burns also told Mr. Black again that the status of the property should not change until there is an answer from the State.
2. Park Brochure Development - The Director stated he had talked to Sliman's Printery and that the usual cost for doing graphics work was \$75/hour. He got an estimate of \$300-500 to get the map finished.

A motion was made by F. Morris to pay to get the map finished in an amount not to exceed \$500. A second was provided by A. Black, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

3. Possible Dominion Easements Reifsnnyder, Oak and Martindale Parks - The Director reported that he had checked with Dominion. They told him that they had one section to complete a description for, and then it would be turned over to an appraiser. The proposed easement would then be sent to the City for review.
4. Recycle/Ad Proposal - Mr. Gordon of the Mayor's Office reported that Council passed an ordinance authorizing the contract. The contract should be signed soon, and then locations will be determined. Mr. Gordon did not think there would be locations in place until two or three months after the contracts are signed.

Councilmember Hawk asked about the overall concept of advertising within the Park System. Mr. Black stated that the issue had been talked about and that the Board was being careful regarding the placement and content of the advertising.

5. Possible transfer of Crenshaw Park Property to SARTA - Mr. Gordon told the Board that a communication still needs to go to Council so he had not much else regarding the issue. The Director told the Board that he had assisted in an assessment report on the property. Mr. Black noted that time was an issue if they needed to get it done by the end of the year.
6. Possible Banner Sale Policy - The Director asked the Board if they had any suggestions for changes with the proposed policy he had prepared. If not, his plan was to ask for a review from the Law Department, and then to try and get the information out in the winter edition of the Canton Connection. Mr. Morris thought it was good. Mr. Black had no objections and told the Director to go forward with a Law review and the Canton Connection.
7. Informal City Council Resolution regarding Nimisilla Park - The Board reviewed a letter the Director prepared for the Service Director outlining the situation regarding a possible closing of the Nimisilla Park storage area and relocating it to another location.

Mr. Black and Mr. Morris both instructed the Director to go ahead and send the letter.

Mr. Hawk asked how such a move would be paid for and what the end result would be after such a move?

Mr. Black stated Mr. West would have to arrange for the necessary funds as the Park System does not have them. He also stated Mr. West had a proposed plan with many features for the Park.

Mr. Ken Ash stated he was the one that started for a push for a football field to move the players from the Cook Park area.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. City Council Ordinance regarding a Special Park Fund for Nimisilla Park Rentals - Mr. Black stated he was against creating separate funds for park rentals. He felt it could lead to multiple funds for all the park areas. Most of those funds would have slow growth.

Mr. Morris asked about how and why there was a special fund for Garaux Park. The Director explained that when a Natureworks Grant was obtained and used to remodel the building it was a requirement of the grant that any money raised by use of the park had to be used back in that park. He also stated the Park Commission already had a fund for shelter rentals.

Councilmember Hawk stated, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, he was not in support of individual park funds. He sees lots of problems in what had already been said, but also in the accounting issues in keeping all the possible funds straight for the Auditor's Office.

The Director was instructed to prepare a draft letter to the Finance Committee for Mr. Black's review and signature expressing the Board's concerns regarding the issue.

The Director was asked what the special park fund could be used for in the Park System. The Director explained that it was crafted in such a way to allow the Board to use it pretty much as they see fit.

2. West Park Neighborhood Association requesting to sell tickets to a Neighborhood Tour at the Garden Center on December 3, 2011, to raise money for the Park System Holiday in the Park Activity - Mr. Morris thought this was a very good project. He then made a motion to approve their request. Mr. Black provided a second, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.



3. Stark County Disc Golf Association requesting to use Arboretum and Spiker Parks on September 24, 2011, to hold their annual "Hall of Chains" Tournament - The Board reviewed the request. The Director suggested that the Board approve the event at no fee as the Club had been installing the new baskets and doing much other work in the parks.

A motion was then made by A. Black to approve the request with an insurance requirement and to waive the park fees this year. A second was provided by F. Morris, and then passed by unanimous vote.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Mr. Morris stated that he had many issues with the Tree Commission ordinance recently sent to Council and could not support it as written.

Mr. Black stated he had not had the chance to review it.

Councilmember Hawk stated members of Council also had concerns.

Mr. Gordon stated the vacant properties would add to the problems with enforcement of the ordinance.

Issues such as who will enforce the ordinance, who will be able to go onto private property, and how the whole thing will be paid for were all brought up.

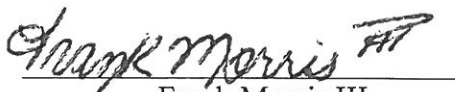
Mr. Morris made a motion to send a letter to Council stating that the Board cannot support the ordinance as written as long as at least one other Board member expresses reservations to the proposed ordinance. Mr. Black provided a second, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Black will advise the Director as to his opinion as soon as he reviewed the ordinance. The Director will contact Member Zutali to see about his opinion.

2. Assistant Director Foltz gave the Board and the Director a copy of a landscape plan that had been done for around the donated fountain that is currently being installed at the Garden Center. He told the Board that the Canton Garden Center was looking to raise the necessary funds to have the work done. He pointed out that there had been \$3000 in capital requested for the project, but not used since capital was just now being distributed that could be used.

Mr. Black and Mr. Morris both stated they had no problems using the money for landscaping.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

  
Frank Morris III  
Vice President

  
Douglas Perry  
Director/Secretary